

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-11

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DRAFTED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS:JS
APPROVED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS
DOD/ISA - DR. SHIELDS
ARMY CASUALTY - CAPT. CLEMENTS
EA/VN - MR. WENZEL

----- 104359

R 111506Z SEP 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
JCRC
USDEL FPJMT
RUHQHQA CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
DAO
CINCUSARPAC
DA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199216

E.O. 11652:NA
TAGS:MOPD, LA
SUBJECT:TRAVEL BY PW/MIA FAMILY GROUP
REF: A) STATE 187412; B)STATE 197377

1. MRS. MARGARET HOPPER, TRAVELING WITH PW/MIA GROUP, HAS TOLD ARMY AND STATE (D/PW) OF HER PLAN WHILE IN SVN TO TRY TO VISIT THE PLACES WHERE HER SON, SSGT. DAVID S. DEMMON, US ARMY, MAY HAVE BEEN LOST OR HELD AS A PW. DEMMON CASE IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST BECAUSE OF REPORTS THAT HE WAS SEEN IN ENEMY CAPTIVITY AFTER HIS LOSS AS AN OBSERVER ON AN OV-1C MOHAWK AIRCRAFT ON 9 JUNE 1965 ON FLIGHT ROUTED FROM VUNG TAU TO SOC TRANG TO CA MAU.

2. THERE WERE TWO SUCH REPORTS IN 1966, FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES, POSSIBLY IDENTIFYING SGT. DEMMON IN VC CAPTIVITY
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IN 1965-66. MORE SUBSTANTIAL REPORT WAS RECEIVED IN 1971,

FROM INTELLIGENCE SOURCE WHO REPORTED THAT A PW BY THE "NAME OF" DEMMON (PHONETIC "DE MANH") WAS HELD IN CAMBODIA AS LATE AS DEC., 1970, AND IDENTIFIED DEMMON FROM DISPLAY OF PHOTOS AS BEING THE ONE HE HAD SEEN. ON BASIS THIS REPORT SGT. DEMMON'S STATUS WAS CHANGED TO PW IN APRIL, 1971. NO RETURNED PW HAD ANY INFO ON SGT. DEMMON, HOWEVER, NOR WAS HE IDENTIFIED ON ANY LISTS FURNISHED BY VC/NVA.

3. MRS. HOPPER CONSIDERS HER TRIP A "PILGRIMAGE" TO LOOK FOR HER SON. HER HOPE IS TO BE ABLE TO TRAVEL THE ROUTE OF HIS LAST FLIGHT, BY LAND VEHICLE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, OTHER-

WISE BY AIRCRAFT. WE ASSUME SHE COULD GO TO CAN THO, AND IF SECURITY PERMITS TRAVEL BY CONSULATE CAR FROM THERE TO KHANH HUNG IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE ("SOC TRANG"), AND TO QUAN LONG IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE ("CA MAU"). SHE HAS PHOTOGRAPHS OF HER SON WITH INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE WHICH SHE WOULD LIKE TO DISTRIBUTE IN THOSE AREAS. IF POSSIBLE WE RECOMMEND SHE BE ACCOMPANIED ON HER TRAVEL BY OFFICER FROM JCRC-LNS (IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES) IF THIS IS AGREEABLE TO HER.

4. MRS. HOPPER MAY ALSO ASK TO CONTACT THE SOURCE OF THE 1971 REPORT WHO FURNISHED DEMMON'S NAME AND IDENTIFIED HIS PICTURE. WE HAVE TOLD HER THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE, BUT SUGGEST IT BE DONE IF FEASIBLE. COORDINATE WITH JCRC. KISSINGER

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To: SAIGON
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